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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 27, 2012

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD LAUNCHES EFFORT TO REACH OUT TO VERMONTERS

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Montpelier, VT – The Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) will work with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to develop a comprehensive approach to public and stakeholder engagement under a plan approved by the GMCB today. The GMCB also approved release of a request for proposals to hire a "stakeholder engagement coordinator." The stakeholder engagement coordinator will work with the GMCB and RWJF to develop and implement public engagement strategies.

"The GMCB has a wide array of powers and duties that are complex and inter-related and have the potential to affect all Vermonters," said Anya Rader Wallack, chair of the GMCB. "To fulfill our charge, we must communicate clearly **to** the public regarding our scope of responsibility and our policy decisions and we must gather input **from** the public regarding the central choices inherent in our work. The law requires it, and common sense requires it."

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has a long history of support for state work on health care reform. The foundation will provide in-kind resources to assist with the development of a public and stakeholder engagement plan. The plan will guide engagement of the Vermont public generally, but will focus in particular on specific priority stakeholder audiences, and aim to make the most effective use of the GMCB's resources to ensure transparency and broad public participation in the board's work.

The GMCB agreed to hire the stakeholder engagement coordinator under a contract, the total value of which will not exceed \$35,000. The contractor will assist with development of the public engagement plan and other materials that aid the public in understanding the GMCB's work and work process, and the public's potential role in contributing to and influencing GMCB work.

